

CLAIMS

1. A method of providing a sub-page of a website to a requesting client comprising the steps of:
 - 5 sending to the client, with a copy of a first web page, a link which points to an address of a server on which a copy of the sub-page is hosted;
 - actuating the link; and
 - displaying an alias for the predetermined address at the client.
- 10 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of links are provided, each pointing to a different address, and each different address being an address of a server on which a copy of the sub-page is hosted.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the alias is an address of a server which is adapted to translate the alias into an address of a server on which a copy of the sub-page is hosted.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the alias is displayed on a graphical user interface of a program running on the client which is adapted to enable user navigation of the Internet.
 - 20 5. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - (a) determining, on the basis of a predetermined criterion, whether actuation of the link has been successful in obtaining the sub-page;
 - (b) if not, actuating another of the links; and
 - repeating steps (a) and (b) until the first to occur of: all of the links have been actuated; and actuation of a link has been successful in accordance with the predetermined criterion.
 - 30 6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the alias displayed is the same for each of the links actuated.

7. A method according to claim 5 wherein the predetermined criterion is whether, within a predetermined period of time, a predetermined step in a process of establishing connection with a server has been reached.

5 8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the predetermined step is completion of a connection with a server.

9. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
actuating each of the links simultaneously;
10 on the basis of a predetermined criterion, selecting one of the actuated links, and terminating all of the others.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the predetermined criterion is the greatest progress in establishing full connection with one of the servers after a specified interval of time following simultaneous actuation of all links.

11. A method of operating a web server to provide a sub-page of a website to a requesting client, comprising the steps of:
receiving from a client a request for a first web page hosted on the server;
20 sending to the client, with the first page, a link which points to an address within the Internet of a further server hosting a copy of the sub-page; and
sending with the first web page instructions which are executable upon actuation of the link to cause a browser programme to display an alias of the address of the further server.

25 12. A method according to claim 11 wherein a plurality of links are sent to the client with the first page, each pointing to a different predetermined address within the Internet, each predetermined address being an address of a further server hosting a copy of the sub-page, and the instructions are executable upon actuation of each link.

30 13. A method according to claim 11, wherein the alias is an address of a server adapted to translate the alias to an address of one of the further servers.

14. A method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of sending, in conjunction with the plurality of links, further instructions actuatable upon actuation of one of the links to:

5 (a) determine on the basis of a predetermined criterion, whether actuation of the link has been successful in obtaining the sub-page;

 (b) if not, to actuate another of the links; and

repeat steps (a) and (b) until the first to occur of: all of the links have been actuated; and actuation of a link has been successful in accordance with the predetermined criterion.

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15. A method according to claim 14 wherein the links are actuated in a predetermined order established prior to dispatch from the web server.

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16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the alias displayed is the same for each of the links actuated.

17. A method according to claim 15 wherein the predetermined criterion is whether, within a predetermined period of time, a predetermined step in a process of establishing connection with a further server has been reached.

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18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the predetermined step is completion of a connection with a further server.

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19. A method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of sending, in conjunction with the plurality of links, further instructions, actuatable upon actuation of one of the links to:

actuate each of the links simultaneously;

select, on the basis of a predetermined criterion, one of the actuated links, and terminate all of the others.

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20. A method according to claim 19 wherein the predetermined criterion is the greatest progress in establishing full connection with one of the further servers after a specified interval of time following simultaneous actuation of all links.

21. A web server adapted to respond to a request from a client by sending to the client a copy of a first web page and to include with the first web page a plurality of links each of which points to a different predetermined address within the Internet, each predetermined address being an address of a further server, the web server being
 - 5 adapted to send with the first web page and in response to said request, instructions executable, upon actuation of one of the plurality of links, to instruct a browser program in the client to display an alias of the predetermined address.
22. A method of obtaining a sub-page from a website comprising the steps of:
 - 10 requesting from a web server a copy of a first web page;
 - actuating a link on the first web page which points to an address within the Internet of a further server hosting a copy of the sub-page; and
 - actuating code associated with the link to cause a browser programme to display an alias of the address of the further server.

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